

## **REMARKS**

This is intended as a full and complete supplemental response to the Office Action dated October 5, 2007. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8-10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19-22, 25 and 28 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 10, 13, 22 and 28 have been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments do not introduce new matter. Claims 10, 13, 14, 22 and 28 remain pending following entry of this response.

Applicants do not concede that the canceled and amended claims are not patentable. Rather, the cancellations and amendments have been made to facilitate prosecution and expedite on allowance. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled and pre-amended claims in one or more continuing applications.

### Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 15, 17 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chatterjee et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 7,162,691, hereinafter, "*Chatterjee*").

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chatterjee* in view of *Thompson* (U.S. Patent No. 5,761,429).

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chatterjee* in view of *Toyama* (U.S. Publication 2004/0192343).

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chatterjee* in view of *Nakamura et al.* (U.S. Publication 2003/0074375, hereinafter "*Nakamura*").

Claim 20 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chatterjee* in view of *Nolan et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,253,362, hereinafter "*Nolan*").

Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chatterjee* in view of *Nolan* and further in view of *Nakamura*.

The present rejection is obviated as a result of the amendments made herein, which place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12-13 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to recite the allowable subject matter identified in claim 12. Claims 13 has been amended to depend from claim 10. Claim 19 has been canceled.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted, and  
**S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,**

/Gero G. McClellan, Reg. No. 44,227/

---

Gero G. McClellan  
Registration No. 44,227  
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.  
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500  
Houston, TX 77056  
Telephone: (713) 623-4844  
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846  
Attorney for Applicants